

health care for our most vulnerable citizens. States are facing more than \$40 billion in deficits, unemployment is up, and the number of uninsured are rising.

Today, we offer Americans hope. I am proud that the U.S. Senate has joined together in passing the Health Care Safety Amendments of 2001. This bill reauthorizes two critical programs that serve our poorest populations—the health centers program and the National Health Service Corps. It also creates the Healthy Communities Access Program, HCAP. By bringing together public and private providers, HCAP will help improve the coordination of services for communities' most vulnerable populations.

At a time when our health care system too often treats people as statistics, this Nation's community health centers and our health professionals working through the National Health Service Corps treat them as patients who deserve the best available health care. They know their communities, they understand their concerns, they know their names, and they speak their languages.

For more than 30 years, these programs have provided health care to Americans who have no where else to go for services. In fact, it is difficult to imagine what health care in the United States would be like today without them. Without their extraordinary achievements, millions of the most vulnerable Americans would not receive the health care they need to live healthy and productive lives. Without the health centers and the National Health Service Corps, there would be higher rates of tuberculosis, infant mortality, AIDS, substance abuse, and many other debilitating conditions in our low-income neighborhoods. Without these two programs, the Nation's emergency rooms would be flooded with even more patients seeking primary care.

Despite their extraordinary accomplishments, far too often these health centers and providers struggle each day just to keep their doors open. That is why this legislation is so important.

Over the years, our community health centers have more than proven their worth. And as a result, last year, health centers received more support than ever before. We set a goal of doubling the Federal financial commitment to community health centers over the next 5 years. We need to continue expanding these programs and get more health professionals on the ground in health centers in America's small farming communities, urban centers, and sprawling suburbs.

And we must continue our commitment to the Healthy Communities Access Program. HCAP plays a very important role in our health care safety net. From the physician in private practice to the community health centers to the hospitals, all will work hand-in-hand to coordinate their efforts to reach the vast number of

Americans who fall between the cracks in today's health care system. We must ensure that we continue to fund this program to help safety net providers develop innovative ways to coordinate the care for the uninsured and underinsured. We should not put this important safety net program at risk of receiving lower levels of funding.

I commend President Bush for making the health centers program and the National Health Service Corps a priority in his 2003 budget, and I hope the administration will support the bipartisan HCAP program. I also commend Senator FRIST, Senator JEFFORDS, and the members of our committee for their hard work on this bill.

For more than 30 years, I have been inspired by those who invest their lives in caring for Americans who have no place to turn for health care. I thank my colleagues today for passing the Safety Net bill which will aid our health centers and doctors in delivering critical health care services in our poorest communities. In doing so, we not only offer the tools for ensuring healthier lives, but we provide hope for millions of struggling families.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL TIMOTHY A. PETERSON

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and pay tribute to Colonel Timothy A. Peterson, Chief, Senate Liaison Division, Office of the Chief of Legislative Affairs, and Department of the Army who will retire on June 1, 2002. Colonel Peterson's career spans over 28 years, during which he has distinguished himself as a soldier, scholar, leader and friend of the United States Senate.

A New York native, Colonel Peterson graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1974 and was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Field Artillery Branch of the U.S. Army. During his career he has commanded soldiers from the battery through the installation level. At Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, he commanded the 7th Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment of the 25th Infantry Division and later served as the Installation Commander of the U.S. Army Garrison at Fort Dix, NJ. As a scholar Tim Peterson has sought opportunities to improve himself throughout his career. In addition to teaching mathematics to cadets at the United States Military Academy, he has served as an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow and a Army Senior Fellow, Secretary of Defense Corporate Fellowship, as well as receiving advanced degrees from the University of Puget Sound, University of Washington, the Salve Regina College and the U.S. Naval War College.

Since September 1999, Tim Peterson has served with distinction as the Chief Army Senate Liaison. He has superbly represented the Chief of Legislative Liaison, the Army Chief of Staff, and the Secretary of the Army while promoting

the interests of the soldiers and civilians of our Army. His professionalism, mature judgement, sage advice and interpersonal skills have earned him the respect and confidence of the Members of Congress and Congressional staffers with whom he has worked on a multitude of issues affecting our Army, its soldiers and civilians. In almost 3 years on the Hill, Tim Peterson has been a true friend of the United States Senate and the Congress. Serving as the Army's primary point of contact for all Senators, Congressional Committees and their staffs, he has assisted Congress in understanding Army policies, operations, requirements and priorities. As a result, he and his staff have been extremely effective in providing prompt, coordinated and factual replies to all inquiries and matters involving Army issues. In addition, he has personally provided invaluable assistance to Members and their staffs while planning, coordinating and accompanying Senate delegations traveling worldwide. His substantive knowledge of the key issues, keen legislative insight and ability to effectively advise senior Army leaders have directly contributed to the successful representation of the Army's interests before Congress.

Throughout his career, Colonel Tim Peterson has demonstrated his profound commitment to our Nation, a deep concern for soldiers and their families and a commitment to excellence. Colonel Peterson is a consummate professional whose performance in over 28 years of service has personified those traits of courage, competency and integrity that our Nation has come to expect from its professional Army officers.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Colonel Peterson for his honorable service to our Army, its soldiers and the citizens of the United States. We wish him and his family well and all the best in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO INTEGRITY LODGE #51

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Integrity Lodge #51 Prince Hall Masons, who will be celebrating 100 years of service to the community of Paterson, NJ, this month.

Prince Hall Masons, the founders of this organization, are the oldest African American fraternity in the United States. This celebration will truly highlight the contributions as well as the many accomplishments that this fine organization has made to its community.

Under the direction of Prince Hall Masons, the Integrity Lodge has enjoyed countless success stories. The Integrity Lodge has been recognized for guiding and providing leadership to African Americans. Additionally, the Integrity Lodge has made countless charitable contributions which in turn have positively affected many lives.